



## **INNOVATION PLAN APPROVAL SUMMARY Calaveras County**

**Total Requested for Innovation: \$400,300**

**Staff Recommend: APPROVAL**

### **Review History**

County Submitted Innovation Work Plan: August 6, 2010

MHSOAC Vote regarding Plan Approval: September 23, 2010

### **County Demographic Profile**

Population: 46,731

- Latino: 10.4%
- APA: 1.7%
- Native American: 1.7%
- African American: 1.3%
- Caucasian: 82.8%

Age

- 19.1% under age 18
- 19.1% age 65 or older

### **Work Plan #1 - Community Support Groups**

**Duration:** three years

**Budget Request:** \$300,000

#### **Key Features of Innovation Program**

- Develops collaborative partnership between Calaveras County Behavioral Health Services and community support groups as a strategy to increase access to services, especially for underserved Latino and Miwok communities
- Develops an approach to support groups that brings together individuals with mild, moderate, and serious mental health issues includes people with and without insurance coverage and/or eligibility for public behavioral health services

#### **Expected Contribution to Learning and Development of New/Improved Mental Health Approaches**

Calaveras County expects to learn whether and how:

- A partnership between the county behavioral health system and support groups convened by and located in the community increases access and engagement
- A collaborative community support group program increases recovery outcomes

- Native-American Talking Circles and Spanish-speaking groups facilitated by trusted community members increases access for underserved individuals
- County's partnership with support groups engages people with a range of coverage (Medi-Cal, insured, under-insured, uninsured)
- Support group participants make effective use of referrals to Behavioral Health Services and other resources

**Similar to other MHSA Innovation Programs:** Placer County

#### **Example Reviewer Comments**

- "There are only about 40 people per square mile in Calaveras County. You can imagine how difficult it is to do outreach in that kind of circumstance! It was impressive that they reached out to all of these different groups."
- Requested and received clarification that county will track results of referrals
- "This program will contribute to learning about how to help people from diverse circumstances support each other. It can be difficult to have people from very different socio-economic circumstances in a support group because it can lead to stigma for people who are less advantaged."

### **Work Plan #2 – Garden to Families Program**

**Duration:** three years

**Budget Request:** \$55,000

#### **Key Features of Innovation Program**

- Supports consumer recovery goals through meaningful and rewarding volunteer work cultivating produce for donation to the Calaveras County Food Bank
- Teaches marketable skills to support future employment
- Includes transportation for consumers in isolated parts of the county
- Includes outreach to Latino and Miwok consumers

#### **Expected Contribution to Learning and Development of New/Improved Mental Health Approaches**

Calaveras County expects to learn whether and how:

- Consumer volunteers meet their recovery goals
- Participants' hospitalization and criminal justice involvement are reduced

**Similar to other MHSA Innovation Programs:** none

#### **Example Reviewer Comments**

- "This is awesome: recovery and resilience in action. In reading it, Gardening is so therapeutic. If you have a mental health challenge and you can get away from everything you're thinking about and see something grow and give something back...it's therapy without knowing it."
- Requested and received clarification about which elements of this program differ from horticulture therapy and are new to the mental health system.

## **Innovation Administration**

These administrative expenses apply to both of Calaveras County's Innovation Programs.

**Duration:** three years

**Budget Request:** \$45,300